

FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE  
PANAMA BUREAU  
DRAWER 927  
APO MIAMI 34004

5 March 1985  
MPA-5012

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service  
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group  
SUBJECT : Monthly Report — Panama Bureau — February 1985

I. GENERAL

ROSET cruising observations during the month focused in the main on identifying radio teletype signals on the 34.5 West Intelsat. Spanish transmissions of Moscow TASS and NOVOSTI, Madrid EFE and a Latin American REUTER tributary were identified and sampled.

The West European Space Agency successfully launched an Ariane-3 rocket from French Guiana on 8 February that placed the Brasilsat and Arabsat telecommunications satellites in geostationary orbit. Telemetry signals from Brasilsat were monitored but the satellite is not yet operational. Observations are continuing.

The Signals Analysis section responded to two priority special requests from headquarters for satellite television programming. In the first project the bureau provided television coverage of the launch of the Ariane-3 rocket carrying Brasilsat and in the second the bureau provided tapes of two consecutive days of programming of all West European television observable from Panama. The tapes were hand carried to the local DHL office to assure the fastest possible delivery to Washington.

On the 26th the area around the bureau took on the appearance of a war zone. Early in the day an Army armored personnel carrier on exercises in the bureau's HF antenna field rammed head on into a 70-foot rhombic antenna tower, sheering it at ground level and leaving us with a pile of twisted metal. Fortunately no one was injured and we lost no coverage in the incident. The Army has accepted full responsibility and has given us verbal agreement to pay for the antenna replacement. This incident was followed some four hours later by a large brush fire which began alongside the bureau. The fire department responded quickly to our call for assistance. There was no damage to bureau property.

-2-

## II. OPERATIONS

### A. Monitorial/Editorial

Nicaragua was the scene of a flurry of activity during February and once again the focus of the bureau's attention. As the month began, the Sandinists were still vocal about the U.S. Government decision in January to abruptly suspend the talks the two states had been holding in Manzanillo, Mexico. The Managua leaders accused the United States of negotiating in bad faith and, in mid month, held the United States responsible for the postponement of the scheduled Contadora Group session called to discuss peace in Central America. In fact, Costa Rica, Honduras, and El Salvador had announced a boycott of the Contadora process because of the Urbina Lara affair, and Nicaragua's violation of the principle of asylum. Seeking to avoid conscription in the Sandinist Army, Urbina Lara sought asylum in the Costa Rica Embassy in Managua. Under mysterious circumstances, the young man was spirited away and placed under arrest by Nicaraguan authorities.

Daniel Ortega responded to President Reagan's remarks at his 21 February press conference by asserting that the President was "a step away from declaring war" on Nicaragua. On 28 February, Ortega, in a speech to the nation, discussed new initiatives to seek a reopening of the bilateral talks with the United States. Ortega offered to return 100 Cuban military advisors to Cuba, postpone indefinitely the purchase of new weapons systems and interception aircraft, and invite U.S. congressional representatives to visit Nicaragua. Ortega also obliquely agreed to settle the Urbina Lara affair as part of the initiative.

Cuba's President Fidel Castro showed some of his remarkable stamina during February as he granted three extended interviews to Western media. In an exhaustive 6-hour post-midnight interview with three WASHINGTON POST editors, Castro discussed the Reagan administration's hostility toward Cuba, the situation in Central America, Cuba's domestic situation, and a possible scaling back of Cuba's military efforts in Africa. A 4 and 1/2 hour PBS television interview with Robert MacNeil was broadcast on Havana television and covered by Key West Bureau. Toward the end of the month, Castro granted the Madrid press agency EFE an interview that reportedly lasted over 8 hours. Cuban media, and especially the Havana PRELA circuits monitored via our ROSET antennas, carried extensive and numerous reports on all the Castro interviews.

### B. Communications

1. The troubled and long delayed U.S. Army plan to eliminate the Panama Automated Relay and rehome all Panama AUTODIN subscribers to Fort Detrick ASC -- known as the MUX plan -- saw some progress this month as Army specialists began some of the wiring required in Detrick and Corozal. In this connection, an Army communications specialist visited the bureau to inspect and inventory the equipment we would use in the MUX plan. The MUX plan would upgrade the bureau's current 75-baud Mode V circuit to a 150-baud Mode I circuit.

-3-

2. On 27 February, the Panama Automated Relay (PAR) lost its send link with Fort Detrick ASC for approximately 5 hours. Throughout the outage, the bureau appeared to be sending and receiving traffic normally. Alerted by a Telex message from headquarters about a possible communications problem, the bureau contacted PAR who confirmed the outage and told us that they were "storing" our traffic until their send link was restored. After our protests that we had filed time-sensitive operational immediate traffic during the outage, PAR apologized for failing to notify us that the send circuit was down. PAR promised to implement new operating procedures for notification to avoid a repetition in the future.

### III. ADMINISTRATION

#### A. Personnel

STAT Senior Editor [ ] received a promotion from GS-10 to GS-11 effective 3 February 1985.

STAT Communications Operator [ ] received a PSI from FBN-3/1 to FBN-3/2 effective 24 February 1985.

STAT Effective 11 February 1985 a contract was signed with [ ]  
STAT [ ] to provide, as needed, translations from Portuguese into English of monitored news from Brazilian and Portuguese media.

STAT The Bureau Chief has already found a replacement for Mrs. [ ]  
STAT [ ] the Staff part time secretary who will be leaving PCS in June 1985. Her name is [ ] and she is in the preemployment processing stage.

#### B. Building and Grounds

In addition to the damage to the rhombic antenna caused by the Army, an armored personnel carrier in a separate incident during the month broke the bureau's water line pipe. The Army quickly repaired it.

STAT Contractor [ ] completed work on the lighting system around the ROSET compound fencing.

As if to give the lie to those cynics among us, Army facilities engineers began the long-delayed installation of the 50-ton Carrier chiller unit for the operations building. This is a project under FY 1982 funds.

### IV. VISITS

STAT The bureau chief and Senior Editor [ ] attended a "Panama Watchers" meeting at the embassy on 6 February. The monthly meeting is chaired by officers of the embassy's political section and attended by representatives of the embassy sections and affiliated agencies who discuss issues of topical significance to the host country.  
STAT [ ] was introduced at the meeting and will act as the bureau chief's representative at future meetings.

-4-

STAT  
STAT

The Deputy Director/Office of Finance visited the bureau on 15 February for a briefing and walkthrough. He was accompanied by [redacted] of the Program Development Group.

V. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

U.S. staffers hosted a "birthday party" for all bureau personnel on 26 February in celebration of the 44th anniversary of the establishment of the government agency that eventually became FBIS. Music, refreshments and camaraderie were in abundance and occasioned a festive good time for all.

STAT

[redacted]  
Chief, Panama Bureau

Attachment  
Production Report

## PANAMA BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 1985

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	510,390
TOTAL NONPUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	10,540
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1,440

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLIC- CATIONS
II. <u>INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:</u> (minutes or issues per week)	9,805 min	42,540 min	202.23 issues

III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:  
(publishable words per month)

ARGENTINA			
Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish		1,830	
AUSTRIA			
Vienna OPECNA in Spanish		0	
COLOMBIA			
Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish	2,610		
Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish	3,260		
Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish	5,190		
Bogota Radio Sutatenza in Spanish	250		
Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish			6,710
Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish			1,400
COSTA RICA			
San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish	9,880		
San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish	7,500		
San Jose LA NACION in Spanish			3,880
San Jose RUMBO CENTROAMERICANO in Spanish			2,170
San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish			1,670
San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish			2,340
San Jose LIBERTAD in Spanish			1,430

-2-

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
<b>CUBA</b>			
Havana International Service in Spanish	53,450		
Havana International Service in Quechua	450		
*Havana EFE to EFE Madrid in Spanish		920	
*Havana PRELA in English		25,630	
*Havana PRELA in Portuguese		130	
*Havana PRELA in Spanish		45,840	
<b>(CLANDESTINES)</b>			
Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador	13,780		
Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador	1,380		
Voice of Sandino in Spanish to Nicaragua	8,600		
<b>ECUADOR</b>			
Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish	3,240		
Quito Radio Quito in Spanish	450		
Quito Domestic Service in Spanish	1,640		
<b>EL SALVADOR</b>			
San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish	2,830		
San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish	4,940		
San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish	3,200		
San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish	3,030		
San Salvador Radio Libertad in Spanish	590		
San Salvador Radio Cadena 1080 in Spanish	1,810		
*San Salvador NOTISAL in English		240	
*San Salvador NOTISAL in Spanish		270	
*San Salvador SALPRES in Spanish		380	
San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish			4,420

-3-

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
San Salvador PROCESO in Spanish			0
San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish			4,570
San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish			6,010
San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish			770
San Salvador THE NEWS GAZETTE in English			0
FRANCE			
Paris AFP in English		2,660	
Paris AFP in Spanish		21,880	
GERMANY			
Hamburg DPA in Spanish		10,060	
*East Berlin ADN to ANN Managua in Spanish		230	
GUATEMALA			
Guatemala City Radio Television Guatemala in Spanish	4,910		
Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish	1,950		
Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish	0		
Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish			5,250
Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish			3,710
HONDURAS			
Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish	5,340		
Tegucigalpa Vox de Honduras Network in Spanish	3,510		
Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish	5,610		
Tegucigalpa Televisora Hondurena in Spanish	1,650		
Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish			3,820
Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish			1,010
San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish			2,250

-4-

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish			4,890
MEXICO			
*Mexico City ENFOPRENSA in Spanish		950	
*Mexico City CERIGUA in Spanish		1,750	
Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish			1,680
Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish			1,310
Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish			0
Mexico City EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish			830
Mexico City EL NACIONAL in Spanish			320
Mexico City THE NEWS in English			2,150
NICARAGUA			
Managua Domestic Service in Spanish	17,980		
Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish	10,030		
Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish	12,340		
Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish	30,190		
Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish	6,150		
Managua International Service in Spanish	2,030		
*Managua Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish		260	
*Managua ANN in English		3,690	
*Managua ANN in Spanish		8,110	
*Managua PRELA in Spanish		1,020	
Managua BARRICADA in Spanish			11,890
Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish			3,570
Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish			7,440



-5-

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
<b>PANAMA</b>			
Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish	1,140		
Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish	500		
Panama City ACAN in Spanish		12,900	
Panama City CRITICA in Spanish			1,010
Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish			3,750
Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish			3,830
Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish			2,730
Panama City MATUTINO in Spanish			630
Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish			1,100
Panama City STAR AND HERALD in English			890
Panama City THE SUNDAY REPUBLIC in English			0
Panama City QUIUBO GRAFICO in Spanish			590
Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish			620
Panama City DIALOGO SOCIAL in Spanish			550
<b>SPAIN</b>			
Madrid EFE in Spanish		27,570	
<b>USSR</b>			
*Moscow TASS in Spanish		1,880	
<b>VENEZUELA</b>			
Caracas Radio Rumbos Network in Spanish	840		
Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish			7,660
Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish			1,090

\* See Annex

## PANAMA BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 1985 -- ANNEX

TOTALS FROM ROSET SOURCES

## CUBA

Havana EFE to EFE Madrid in Spanish	920
Havana PRELA in English	1,150
Havana PRELA in Portuguese	130
Havana PRELA in Spanish	45,840

## EL SALVADOR

San Salvador NOTISAL in English	240
San Salvador NOTISAL in Spanish	270
San Salvador SALPRES in Spanish	380

## GERMANY

East Berlin ADN to ANN Managua in Spanish	230
--	-----

## MEXICO

Mexico City CERIGUA in Spanish	1,750
Mexico City ENFOPRENSA in Spanish	950

## NICARAGUA

Managua Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish	260
Managua ANN in English	3,690
Managua ANN in Spanish	8,110
Managua PRELA in Spanish	1,020

## USSR

Moscow TASS in Spanish	1,880
---------------------------	-------

TOTAL FOR FEBRUARY 1985	66,820
-------------------------	--------